

TOP SECRET
DRAFT

Draft for 'd

25X1A

*23 Mar 64-
Pn*

MISSION C024C

BACKGROUND

A. This mission flown on 16 March 1964 was planned in order to obtain COMOR priority targets in Southeast China where the defensive forces are generally weak and penetration would not be deep. Route and area selection were chosen from an operational standpoint to reestablish confidence in the pilot on an actual overflight. No overflight of the China mainland had occurred since [REDACTED] was lost S. E. of Nanchang. This was the first operational overflight of the China mainland since the loss of [REDACTED]

25X1C

B. All systems operated successfully except the tracker camera which had a malfunction approximately 4 hours after take-off, and after one hour over south China. Flight lines were flown as directed with no major deviation.

C. Pilot reported two contrails approached from the rear, while over Hainan Island, and passed under and to right of course. The fighters appeared to be pacing the aircraft and not trying to intercept. Weather was favorable at penetration point and remained so over Hainan Island turning to partly cloudy conditions to cloudy undercast north of Hainan. The aircraft turned to an easterly heading and clear weather was encountered near Canton for the remainder of the route. See page 2 of IPIR dated 16 March 1964 for map showing cloud covered portion of route.

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